

A Jump to Celebrate

Story and Photos by
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SPC Leah Falkner (*right*) HHC 27th Engineer Bn., and fellow paratroopers (*above*) are all smiles after completing the all-female airborne operation at Fort Bragg, N.C.



WITH families and friends watching, some 100 female paratroopers jumped from aircraft in the skies over Fort Bragg, N.C., landed safely, collected their parachutes and double-timed off the drop zone.

The third-annual jump, sponsored by Fort Bragg's 16th Military Police Brigade, offered a venue in which female paratroopers could meet and celebrate Womens' History Month. It also allowed them to demonstrate their collective capability to perform all the tasks necessary to complete an airborne operation.

"On most jumps, I'm the only female," said 1LT Ann Clinton of the 503rd MP Battalion. "This was a completely different experience. Every member of the parachute detail — the jumpmasters, the safeties, even the Air Force flight-crew members — was female."

MSG Pamela Luce, the primary jumpmaster from the 16th MP Bde., said the annual event celebrates female paratroopers' contributions to the total force and motivates younger female

soldiers to set goals that might seem out of reach, but really aren't.

"This was a real eye-opener for the younger female jumpers," she said. "Some had never experienced a jump directed by a female primary jumpmaster. It's good for them to see that women can conduct an entire airborne operation."

SPC Angela Monseur, of Headquarters and HQs. Detachment, 525th Military Intelligence Bn., said: "I realized that one day I, too, can become a jumpmaster. This event definitely left a lasting impression on me."

"The history of women in the military is a history of love of country, service, commitment, dedication and courage," said COL Mary Meyer, commander of the 16th MP Bde. and guest speaker at the event. "Every woman who participated in this event demonstrated that courage and love of country, and for that I salute them." □



After a safe landing, 2LT Wendy Bresnayan of the 327th Signal Battalion collects her parachute and reserve before leaving the drop zone.

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